

Ike's Finger In All Policy Pie, Aids Say

Washington, July 17 (AP)—

A former aid describes President Eisenhower as an active and



Robert
Cutler

eager participant in shaping key policies at meetings of the National Security Council.

"Sometimes he gets so interested that he can't help but jump into the discussion," Robert Cutler, who spent nearly four years as a

White House assistant to Eisenhower, told the Senate subcommittee on national policy machinery.

After screening by the White House, the testimony of Cutler, a retired general, and two other former Presidential assistants under both Eisenhower and Harry S. Truman, was released today by Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.), chairman of the Senate group.

Caution Against Change

All three cautioned against changing the present flexibility of the council. It was set up by Congress in 1947 at the same time the Army, Navy and Air Force were consolidated under the Department of Defense.

Under the law, the President presides over the NSC, which includes the Secretaries of State and Defense, the Vice President and such other top department or agency heads as the President desires to include.

Adm. Sidney W. Souers, retired, who established the NSC under Truman, said:

"Care had to be taken to prevent it from becoming a decision-making agency in the foreign field. The President is solely responsible for such decisions under our Constitution."

Small and Flexible

Dwight D. Eisenhower, who served as an Eisenhower assistant, agreed with Souers and Cutler that the NSC organization and membership should be kept small and flexible.